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US, Viet Cong Newsmen Get a Look at Each Other

By ANDY GUTHRIE and JIM DESYLVA

SAIGON — A group of Saigon-based newsmen spent a hectic and exciting New Year's Day recording the release of three US Army prisoners of war in an historic meeting between US Army and Viet Cong officials.

It was the first time most of the veteran reporters had ever seen uniformed Viet Cong troops alive who were not prisoners themselves.

News Pool

The prisoner release was covered by a four-man pool for American news organizations. Skip Brown of CBS News and Vo Huynh of NBC covered for television and radio, while Al Webb of UPI and Horst Faas of the AP reported and photographed for the wire services.

It was the second meeting on the

banks of the Vam Co Dong river in Tay Ninh province, near the Cambodian border between the Americans and the National Liberation Front. The first, on Christmas day, provided a basis for the release of the prisoners. ABC News had a "scoop" on that meeting, acquiring film shot by a Vietnamese and a Japanese cameraman who made their way into the area from the Viet Cong side.

It took long hours of wrangling with US Military officials by the various bureau chiefs in Saigon before the four-man pool was approved to cover the second meeting.

Press Chopper Nicked

Horst Faas relates "the ground rules were that our helicopter would fly some distance away from the meeting site, and if the US Army negotiating team

saw Viet Cong press, then we would be permitted to land." On the flight from Saigon, the press helicopter was hit by an enemy bullet that nicked one of the rotor blades, but once on the ground at the meeting site everything was peaceful.

The talks were in progress as the US press chopper landed. The two television cameraman began filming at once with long lenses, while Faas walked around the whole field. "It was kidney shaped, about 150 meters across by 80 meters wide. I was carrying six cameras, with lenses up to 560 millimeters, so I was ready to shoot across the whole field if need be. The day was overcast and there was a slight drizzle, but the lack of bright sun and shade

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UN COVERAGE IS 'HORRIBLE,' SAYS US ENVOY

By ED EDWIN

"Horrible" was the evaluation of United Nations news coverage given by outgoing Ambassador James Russell Wiggins, former editor of The Washington Post. Its inadequacies, he told the 20th Edward R. Murrow World Affairs Forum, were among his greatest surprises as chief American delegate.

Niagara of Words

But he was not unsympathetic with a reporter's problems in covering a session, which he characterized as being a deluge of speeches. This "absolute Niagara of words," he puckishly suggested, may "deaden the ears of reporters, so they don't hear a thing."

Shortly before addressing the OPC, Wiggins had told newsmen at Columbia University of his feeling that when UN

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GERMAN, ANYONE: It was an unlikely place to speak German, but that's what AP cameraman Horst Faas is doing with a Viet Cong cameraman during a beer break from the final negotiations with the VC to release three US prisoners on New Year's Day. Standing behind the seated VC negotiating team are (left to right) a German-speaking VC cameraman, Skip Brown of CBS News, Faas, Vo Huynh of NBC News, and French freelance cameraman Thomann Raymond.

VC Newsmen

(From page 1)

made it ideal for the long lenses."

There were about 12 Viet Cong motion picture and still cameramen and reporters, as well as a VC combat artist at the scene. He stood under the big Viet Cong flag and drew in a large sketch book.

Aside from the US pool reporters, two Japanese, one Frenchman and two Vietnamese cameramen were on hand.

During a break in the talks, the pool members walked over to a table where the Viet Cong were sipping beer and exchanged a few words. Head of the VC delegation said, in perfect English, "Sorry, I'm not receiving the press today," and Skip Brown recorded that comment on sound film.

Never the Twain. . . .

Meantime, Faas, speaking in German to one VC cameraman, asked him where he learned German. "East Berlin" came

the reply, "where are you from?" "West Berlin" said Faas, to which the VC cameraman said "sorry to hear it."

The break over, the pool members spotted the three prisoners who emerged from the jungle on the opposite side of the clearing, wearing light blue fatigues. Skip Brown stuck his mike toward the men and wished them a happy new year. They looked up and said "the same to you."

The release ceremony lasted only a few minutes and as the two US Army helicopters lifted off, the Viet Cong melted back into the jungle and disappeared.

Viet Nam veteran Faas described it as "weird. I had never seen Viet Cong alive, with clothes on and not in prison before. I was surprised that they were very polite, though some of the VC were a bit arrogant."



RELEASE FILMING: NBC photographer Vo Huynh films as three US prisoners walk to freedom on New Year's Day.

Key Appointments For 1969 Club Dinner Announced

First appointments to the Administrative Committee for the OPC's 1969 Annual Awards Dinner have been announced by Chairman *Bob Considine* and Executive Vice Chairman *Josef Dine*.

The dinner will be Friday, April 18, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Appointees and their responsibilities are: *Ted Baron*, public information; *Anita Diamant Berke*, arrangements; *Richard G. DeRochemont* and *Gordon Fraser*, production; *Ben Grauer*, commentary; *Burnet Hershey*, *Howard L. Kany*, *Russell C. Tornabene* and *Harriet Van Horne*, program; *Allan Jackson*, awards liaison; *Ansel E. Talbert*, Washington coordination; and *Jeannette Longyear*, executive secretary.

Other committee appointments will be announced later.

Dinner Committee members had an organizational meeting at the Club Jan. 9 to discuss general plans and ideas for the event. Dine, presiding, said he hoped this year's event would outdraw 1968's highly successful event, which drew over 850 members and guests. Headliners were Vice President *Hubert H. Humphrey*, Senators *Clifford Case* and *John Tower*, and comedian *Bob Hope*.

SUBCHAIRMEN TO LEAD JUDGING IN 17 OPC AWARDS CATEGORIES

Selection of twelve subchairmen for the OPC's 1969 Awards has been announced by *Whit Burnett*, Awards chairman.

Heads for all this year's seventeen entry classes have been named except for Class 15, The Asia Magazine Award for the best article or report on Asia in any medium.

Kathleen McLaughlin, 1968 Awards Chairman, will serve with Burnett this year as vice chairman and consultant, and *Beth Fine*, as clerk of the overall Committee. Committee heads are now selecting their co-judges. This year's entries are divided into 17 classifications. The classes and the 1969 committee heads are:

Class 1, Best daily newspaper or wire service reporting from abroad: *William J. Fulton*.

Class 2, Best daily newspaper or wire service interpretation of foreign affairs: *John Luter*.

Class 3, Best daily newspaper or wire service photographic reporting from abroad: *Cornell Capa*.

Class 4, Best photographic reporting or interpretation from abroad in a magazine or book: *Barrett Gallagher*.

Class 5, Best radio reporting from abroad: *Russell Tornabene*.

Class 6, Best radio interpretation of foreign affairs: *Russell Tornabene*.

Class 7, Best TV reporting from abroad: *Don Coe*.

Class 8, Best TV interpretation of foreign affairs: *Don Coe*.

Class 9, Best magazine reporting from abroad: *Jean Baer*.

Class 10, Best magazine interpretation of foreign affairs: *Jean Baer*.

Class 11, Best book on foreign affairs: *Anita Diamant Berke*.

Class 12, Best cartoon on foreign affairs: *Jerry Robinson*.

Class 13, Vision Magazine-Ed Stout Award for best article or report on Latin America (any medium): *Sam Summerlin*.

Class 14, E. W. Fairchild Award for best business news reporting from abroad (any medium): *Henry Gellermann*.

Class 15, The Asia Magazine Award for the best articles or report on Asia (any medium): (to be named).

Class 16, Robert Capa Award for superlative still photography requiring exceptional courage and enterprise abroad: *Cornell Capa*, *Barrett Gallagher*.

Class 17, Overseas Press Club George Polk Memorial Award for best reporting, any medium, requiring exceptional courage and enterprise abroad: *Richard J. H. Johnston*.

Club members and non-club member experts in the various entry classes who will serve under the above subchairman will be announced when chosen by the subchairmen.

Club members in the US and abroad who have by now received entry forms on which nominations for Awards may be made and mailed to the OPC are requested to supply the name of their nominee, title or subject of the prize potential work and where and when it appeared. Nominations should be in the Award Committee's hands before Feb. 1. The closing date for final exhibit entries is Feb. 10.

NEW YORK SCENE

Tues., Jan. 21 — In the Bistro. Cocktail reception for Will Oursler and Sam Summerlin, two of the Club's multiple authors of 1968. 5:30 p.m.

* * *

Wed., Jan. 22 — Colette Boky, soprano, Metropolitan Opera. "An Evening of French Songs." 8:30 p.m.

* * *

Backstage in the White House

Thurs., Jan. 23 — Dinner for Will Sparks, former Assistant to the President. "Five Years of Passionate Anonymity." Cocktails 6:30; dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

Sparks' talk at this event will highlight the lighter side of his five years in the White House. A former newspaperman and assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, Sparks preferred to be backstage in the Johnson administration in which he served for five years as an adviser to the President on international affairs.

* * *

Fri., Jan. 24 — Anzio Correspondents Reunion. Postponed to Feb. 21.

* * *

The Coming Conflict in Northeast Asia

Tues., Jan. 28 — Homecoming Forum for Richard Halloran, Northeast Asia correspondent for The Washington Post. "Northeast Asia: The Coming Conflict." Cocktails 6:30 p.m.; dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

Just back from a Tokyo assignment, Halloran covered the Pueblo crisis and recently completed a new book, *Japan-Images and Realities*, for fall publication. He'll focus this talk on the coming conflicts and crisis in the Far East, which he has covered from 1965 to 1968 for The Washington Post.



Halloran

* * *

Thurs., Feb. 6 — Book Night. Robert Montgomery and John Tebbel will be present to speak about their new books: "Open Letter from a Television Viewer" and "Open Letter to Newspaper Readers." Cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

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All reservations not cancelled 24 hours in advance will be charged to member's accounts.

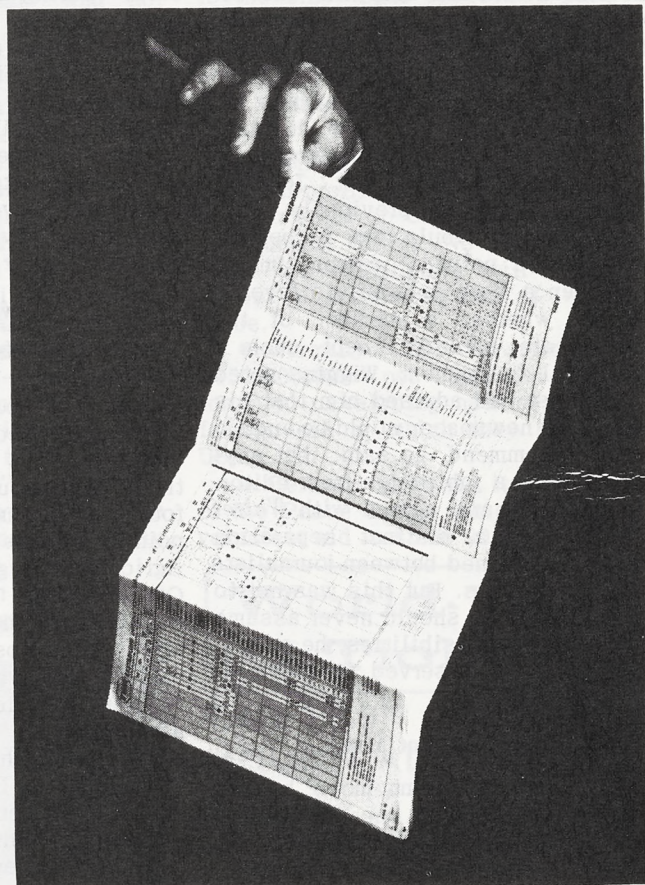
A BIT TOO MUCH

ABC News correspondent Ray Moloney was wounded while covering a story on the Israeli-Jordanian border. He was bitten by a dog.

Moloney, the network's Bonn bureau chief, was doing a story on security measures at an Israeli kibbutz near Jordan when the dog, of unknown loyalties, rushed at him and bit his leg. Both man and dog were put under a 10-day surveillance.

A spokesman for Tel Aviv privately claimed the dog was Jordanian, though Amman sources were expected to charge that the dog was Israeli, according to ABC. Moloney, to prevent biting exchanges between the two sides, recommended that the incident be forgotten, and returned to work.

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UN COVERAGE 'HORRIBLE' (From page 1)

correspondents write, "the needle gets stuck in the crisis groove."

In introducing the newsman-turned-diplomat, OPC President *Hal Lehrman* described him as "a mover and shaker on the diplomatic front" who had "spent most of his time shaking the shakers." Also at the dais were John Stuart, in charge of public relations for the US Mission, OPC First Vice President *Mary Hornaday*, and Treasurer *James H. Sheldon*.

When Wiggins was asked to comment on the notion that his accepting the UN appointment "in the waning days of the Administration" might imply "something sinister," he issued a spirited response arousing applause. He wondered how, in view of some of his editorials, it could be a "political payoff." Moreover, he had not heard from President Johnson from some 18 months previously. Jocularly, in view of tribulations at the UN, he said that a political patron "might have chosen a more appropriate favor."

As to whether a member of the Fourth Estate should accept such a governmental assignment, Wiggins noted that *The Post* had advised him that his career on that newspaper would be ended. He would recommend, he said, that any-accepting such a job resign from editorial employment, and agreed with *Walter Lippmann* that a distinct separation should be maintained between journalists and public servants. But this was not to say that a newsman should never assume governmental responsibilities, he added, noting that he had served in the military forces.

Most Significant Move

The most significant move by the last General Assembly, the ambassador said, was its adoption of a resolution aimed at controlling man's use — or abuse — of the environment. In an oblique criticism of media coverage, he conceded that this action "did not really set the world on its ears." But, he remarked ominously, "At last it is coming to grip with problems really threatening survival."

The resolution, originated by Swedish Ambassador *Sverker Åström*, warned of "the continuing and accelerating impairment of the quality of the human environment caused by such factors as air and water pollution, erosion and other forms of soil deterioration, waste, noise and secondary effects of biocides, which are accentuated by rapidly increasing population and accelerating urbanization." It also expressed "the strong hope that the developing countries will... forestall the occurrence of many such problems," and called for a

1972 UN Conference On Human Environment. The resolution was adopted unanimously on Dec. 3.

"Man historically has been destructive," Wiggins told the OPC. But his environmental intrusions in recent years threaten to create "a greenhouse effect on the atmosphere," with temperate zones perhaps becoming tropical and causing the ice caps to melt.

Before dinner, Wiggins had stressed this UN action to conserve what Buckmaster Fuller has called "spaceship earth" during a TV interview with ABC News' *Melba Tolliver* in the Bistro Room. During dinner, he also noted — without presuming to speak for the next Administration — that Richard M. Nixon focussed on UN social and economic programs while visiting the world organization. Examined by the incoming chief executive, Wiggins said, were uses of the environment as a whole, sea beds, and outer space.

New View of UN

"A readjustment of our expectations" of the UN is in order, the Ambassador elaborated. Its main organs and specialized agencies have progressively worked to better conditions of the world population in ways that the founders did not fully anticipate. He pointed to the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, UNESCO, and development groups. He underscored the "healthy effect of exposing diverse cultures to one another," as occurs within the UN.

But he viewed as a "matter for alarm" moves by nations to act punitively rather than within a legal frame. "Loose in the UN," he said, "is a bloc-voting spurt set out to punish a member, regardless of the nature of the charges, merely to achieve vengeance."

He found contradiction and inconsistency in this approach, as he said, "Yet these are people who mutually proclaimed the universality of the UN. They would reduce the UN to like-minded nations [and] are drawing a straight racial issue." These activities are, he said, "a kind of crisis of constitutionalism."

Violence and Hatred

Speaking without text or notes, Wiggins ticked off his views on the more apparent crisis situations. Relative to the Middle East, he was "appalled" often by the "violence of language, hatred in heart." These he viewed as more foreboding than military weaponry.

He lamented "the sheer inability of the UN" to deal with events in Czechoslovakia, which he described as "one of the most brazen acts of military oc-



WIGGINS: The UN's many words "deaden the ears of reporters, so they don't hear a thing." (Photo by Hayum-Photo Media, Ltd.)

cupation," renewing fears of "a return to Stalinism."

"Curious" and contradictory behavior within the American body politic did not escape Wiggins' analysis. The current urge of many to involve the country in Biafra, he observed, deviated from the general uproar caused by an earlier American involvement in African civil strife. A group of African states organized to resolve such impasses, he pointed out, has been unsuccessful in the Nigerian episode, even under the leadership of Haile Selassie.

The perennial introducing of a resolution to admit mainland China, the ambassador said, was perhaps not "altogether sincere." It could be phrased, he judged, to garner enough votes for passage. Yet as characteristically worded, its sponsors know that it will fail.

This ritual of perfecting resolutions in the corridors, so they will pass, was outlined with certain amused detachment. Using journalistic jargon, he dubbed these efforts "great patchup jobs."

Although Wiggins separated himself from the Fourth Estate when he went to the UN, he will return as editor, publisher, and proprietor of *The Elsworth American*, in Elsworth, Maine. Of his diplomatic performance, one veteran UN peer has said that Wiggins showed that "a good newsman can walk into any story and handle it." In any event, Wiggins did not divorce himself from journalistic working habits. For he was the first US Ambassador to the UN to keep a typewriter beside his prestigious desk, from which he turned out his own copy.

McGhee: Germany is Keystone of Europe

By LOU FRANKEL

George McGhee is a Texan, a diplomat, and a man of knowledge about Germany and Middle Europe thanks to five years as Ambassador to Germany. McGhee also is retiring from the diplomatic corps, as he did when the last GOP Administration took office, and diplomats in hiatus rarely talk for publication.

So what the outgoing Ambassador-at-Large said during his talk, at the Edward R. Murrow World Affairs Forum luncheon Jan. 8, about Germany and Middle Europe was neither new nor novel; not to observers of developments in Middle Europe. To casual onlookers and peripheral peerers at politics — most of whom are dominated by developments in domestic politics and hopes for peace in Paris — what McGhee had to say was pertinent, prophetic and worth both knowing and remembering.

Keystone

For example:

- Germany today is the keystone country in Europe, the nation that England turns to for support in getting into the Common Market, that which France turns to for support in its currency crisis, and that which Russia reacts against when its satellites such as Romania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia get too cozy with the West.

- Germany was strong enough and mature enough to have absorbed the shocks of the East German freight tax,

the spring student riots in Paris, the currency crisis and the Czech invasion by the USSR, without losing its cool, its composure or its common sense.

- The Germans started cultivating the Iron Curtain countries, in an attempt to reduce tensions, and saw the United States and France follow her lead; yet when the USSR invaded Czechoslovakia and put Russian troops on the German border the Bonn reaction was adult, mature, realistic; they reacted sharply yet quietly, by accepting the rebuff, strengthening their military and not shouting.

'Kissing Cousins'?

- The German standard of living continues to improve, its balance of trade is at a phenomenal \$4 billion, and even though the country has the same problems of suburban sprawl, growth of crime, increase in industrialization and decrease in agriculture, increase in air pollution, in student rebellion and in more Federal Government — all familiar to any modern economy including that of the USA — the German leadership sees no alternative toward continuing to attempt to improve relations with its neighbors to the East. As one observer puts it, "Today they're neighbors, tomorrow perhaps they'll be hand-shaking cousins, and eventually they could become kissing cousins."

- Meantime the German economy has never been stronger. The gross national

product grew 6½% in 1968, will probably increase 4½% for 1969, and no devaluation is anticipated, even though the British and French are unhappy.

- The Germans will go to the polls in next October, and the chances are that a similar coalition government will be returned. The Nationalist Party (NPD) vote which has gone as high as 10% will probably be less than that. And though non-Germans see it as political threat and possible revival of Nazism, Rhineland observers note that the NPD is the only legal opposition party and think substantial part of its vote represents a spectrum of opposition to the coalition that rules the nation rather than an upsurge of right wing extremism.

Ratification Seen

- Germany will eventually ratify the anti-proliferation treaty simply because she is so completely exposed to the nuclear threat. No one knows just when the ratification will occur, but almost everyone agrees it will take place.

- Germany is investing about \$450,000,000 per year in long-term loans to developing nations; a form of foreign aid in which they now exceed USA.

- Germany also has its own version of the Peace Corps, which now extends volunteer aid to some 90 countries.

World-Wide Ticker

FAR EAST NEWSMEN MOURN AL RICKETTS

By AL KAFF

TOKYO — A legion of friends mourned the death of Al Ricketts, one of the most famous writers developed on Pacific Stars and Stripes since World War II.

Ricketts, entertainment columnist for the US military newspaper for 15 years, died Jan. 7 in Kaiser Memorial Hospital, Honolulu, of hepatitis and complications. He was 40.

A few days earlier, Max E. Lash in his column in The Japan Times called Ricketts "a sweet cat — one of the world's most beautiful people."

In a two-column tribute to its alumnus, Stars and Stripes said, "Al Ricketts' 'On The Town' column often delighted and sometimes enraged millions of Pacific Stars and Stripes readers. The rotund, 5-foot 4-inch Ricketts filled a daily column with biting, broadsword wit for 15 years.

"Ricketts' barbs at bad films, poor (See page 7)



TALKS ON GERMANY: Emil Lengyel (center) discusses a question with Amb. George McGhee following McGhee's OPC appearance last week. Dr. Philipp Schmidt-Schlegel, acting German Consul General, looks on. (Photo by Sibby Christensen)

SERENDIPITY IS FINDING A PRESS CENTER

By **BERN REDMONT**

PARIS — You could call it serendipity: Look for one goal, and another blessing turns up.

A new communications center with club facilities for the use of foreign correspondents has just been established in Paris. This is a fulfillment of the long-standing, hitherto elusive dream of having a press club in one of the few major capitals which lacks one.

The boon arrived as a by-product of the minor communications crisis caused by the closing of the Press Wireless office in Paris. Five active and energetic members of the Anglo-American Press Association were determined to work out some reasonable way of solving the transmission problem.

After scouting around with various ideas, the problem was mentioned to US Ambassador Sargent Shriver and David Karr of the Hotel George V.

Result: On Jan. 13, the management of the George V, working in close consultation with individual correspondents, established the new Paris Foreign Correspondents Club and Communications Center.

The center was inaugurated on the day that the Anglo-American Press Association tendered a farewell luncheon to the chief US negotiator at the Paris peace talks, *Averell Harriman*, held at the George V.

Expert personnel of Press Wireless will join the hotel organization to take charge of the new communications cen-

ter. Jean Baillet, who was manager of the Paris office of Press Wireless, eventually will be in charge.

The hotel will offer Telex facilities for the transmission of press messages to the US and other international points, and the receipt of messages for correspondents in Paris.

The hotel will make available full messenger service for picking up and delivering copy in the central Paris area, and the hotel telephone facilities will handle phone messages for the communications center.

The hotel will also make available private club facilities consisting of a lounge bar with newspapers, magazines and a full wire service news ticker. A working press room with desks, typewriters and telephones is being es-

tablished adjoining the lounge bar.

All members of the Anglo-American Press Association and other bona-fide working journalists will be issued registered cards on application. The membership card will provide for automatic discounts in the restaurant of the hotel, bar and barber shop. A press table will be reserved daily in the restaurant. Special prices will be available for sandwiches and drinks in the press club bar and lounge.

Those who helped bring the project to fruition were: *Don Cook*, L.A. Times; *Robert Farrell*, McGraw-Hill World News; *Bernard Kaplan*, Montreal Star; *Fred Painton*, US News & World Report; and *Bernard Valery*, N.Y. Daily News, president of the Anglo-American Press Association.

ARGENTINE REGIME FINALLY GETS QUALIFIED PRESS ATTACHE

By **PERCY FORSTER**

BUENOS AIRES — Aspirants to the job of Presidential Press Secretary in Argentina should either not know the first thing about the press, except maybe as newspaper readers, or be extremely careful to hide such knowledge from their prospective employer.

From Composer to CPA

This is not a joke. Over the years the position has been filled by, among others, a composer of tango music; the curator of a historical museum; a retired officer from the Court-Martial department of the Air Force; an infantry colonel; a high-school teacher who is now Consul-General in New York; and the president of a political party's ward committee. The present incumbent is a chartered public accountant.

Tired of having to deal with men without the slightest conception of newspaper and newspapermen's requirements and problems, the Foreign Press Association of Argentina, of which your correspondent has enjoyed the honor of being president for upwards of fourteen consecutive terms, has successfully negotiated the transfer of the Register of Foreign Correspondents from the Presidential Press Department to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose head, Dr. Nicanor Costa Mendez, is notable for his friendship towards the press.

He has proven his capacity for dealing with it on behalf of the Government by naming a newspaperman to handle day-to-day contact with its representatives: Dr. Enrique Nores Bodereau,

nephew of the publisher and editor of Los Principios of Cordoba City, one of Argentina's most prestigious provincial papers. Nores Bodereau, who assumed his job as adviser to the Minister on Jan. 2, worked on the paper in Cordoba for several years and as its Buenos Aires correspondent for a further term.

Credentials Change

From now on, foreign correspondents will no longer be furnished with credentials which they were strictly forbidden to use by the present Presidential Press Secretary except to gain admission to his own office. Instead they will receive a document, signed by the Foreign Minister, requesting all national and provincial authorities to lend full aid to the bearer in his quest for news.

The change has been unanimously applauded by the foreign press, and will be celebrated at a luncheon in honor of the Minister on the eve of his departure for Europe during the latter part of March.

LIBRARY OPEN

The Edward R. Murrow Memorial Library on the Club's fourth floor has been reopened on a limited schedule—from 9 to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

The opening was made possible when Mrs. William Richter volunteered to staff the library on this schedule.



Chairman: Joseph Harrow
Managing Editor: Sibby Christensen

Editorial Board: David Resnick, Lou Frankel, Mark Henahan, Eugene Du Bois, Henry Senber, Ed Edwin.

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INFORMATION CHIEF HONORED: The Louis Lochners greet Ruedinger von Wechmar (right) at an OPC reception honoring von Wechmar, who recently returned to New York from Eastern Europe to take the post as Director of the German Information Center. Von Wechmar has served in New York several years ago as press attache at the German Consulate. Before returning, he was chief East Europe correspondent for German TV's Channel 2.

(Photo by Sibby Christensen)

MIDLAND GUARDIAN COMPANY, Cincinnati-based finance company, specializes in mobile home financing and operates mobile home manufacturing plants. (One of every five new single-family homes purchased is a mobile home.) Midland also engages in small loan and retail consumer financing through branches in the Midwest, Southeast and Gulf states. The firm's assets exceed \$200 million.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

WORLD-WIDE TICKER

(From page 5)

performers and the pompous and untalented in show business began shortly after he joined the newspaper as a serviceman in 1952."

Ricketts left the military newspaper last year, wrote a novel in Mexico and became a columnist for The Honolulu Star-Bulletin before entering the hospital.

In a press section profile, Time magazine several years ago said: "The Ricketts wit is the sort that leads to lynching."

He once walked out of a press conference being given by Joan Baez when she called the Viet Nam war unpopular. "Have you ever heard of a popular war, Miss Baez?" he asked as he left the room.

"Ricketts leaves his Canadian-born wife, Kay — and countless friends who ranged from servicemen to Hollywood greats," Stars and Stripes said.

The newspaper printed Ricketts' trademark above its tribute: a line draw-

ing of the columnist smiling, holding a cigar and leaning over the world's largest city, Tokyo, which Ricketts called, "The city I love."

Henry Hartzenbusch, president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, sent this cable to Ricketts' widow: "In behalf of Foreign Correspondents Club Japan I express sincerest condolences tragic passing Al which great shock to all of us. He was great guy and journalist. We will miss him."

Ironically, Ricketts was never granted membership in the Foreign Correspondents Club although he assisted in arranging many of its parties. He was barred from regular membership by a club rule prohibiting membership to representatives of publicly-owned news organizations except from countries where public ownership is the rule.



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PEOPLE & PLACES

By BETTY ETTER

ON THE GO: **Paul Hurmuses**, who recently joined Pan American Airways' PR staff in San Francisco, has been dispatched to Hawaii on a writing assignment. He had transited Honolulu many times as a Time-Life and Chicago Daily News staffer, but never saw more than the airport. This time he's personally testing the golden beaches of Waikiki. . . . **Lindsey Nelson** and wife Mickie off Jan. 8 for Honolulu, Tokyo, Nikko, Hakone, Kyoto, Taipei, Hong Kong and other Far Eastern and Middle Eastern cities, with return via Paris. . . . **Robin Kinkead**, Pan Am PR chief in San Francisco, back from his first visit to Moscow in 13 years. He found only one person he knew from his year there for the NY Times and Reuters — **Henry Shapiro**, now dean of foreign correspondents in the Soviet capital. "Shapiro was a young squirt when I left Moscow in 1935 (and so was I)," reports Kinkead. "Now I find him a mature, dignified and impressive representative of the US press." . . . **Harrison Forman** off on a three-weeker to India. . . . **Eva Ban**, foreign correspondent for the Brazilian Press, returned to NY after three months at home in Rio. Her "vacation" included three weeks in the jungle, covering student protests all over the country, and reporting of political troubles. Back in the US, she is also covering the UN for Top News Agencia Jornalística of Rio. . . . **Irene Corbally Kuhn** left Jan. 15 for two months in the South Pacific and Asia. She goes first to Tahiti for the opening of the Inter-Continental Hotel Tahara in Papeete, then on to Bora Bora, Auckland and Sydney. In Bangkok she will attend and report on the Pacific Area Travel Association conference and on her return will stop over in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Hawaii.

NEW POSTS: New NBC correspondent in Saigon is **Bob Jones**, a Viet Nam veteran who had been there five times previously for the Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu's CBS television affiliate, station KGMB. . . . **Freeman Fulbright**,



LAYNE:
Materials
Engineering
editor.

executive vice president of Selvage and Lee, Inc., since 1962, joining Hill & Knowlton as a senior vice president. . . . **Bill Safire**, former OPC governor, has sold his PR firm and is headed for Washington to take up White House duties as special assistant to the President. His assignment covers policy planning and program development as speechwriting. . . . **George Watson**, ABC news Moscow bureau chief for the last two years, transferred to London. . . . Executive editor of Materials Engineering for the last two years, **Abner A. Layne** named editor of the magazine. **Poppy Cannon** has a new title. Instead of food editor of the Ladies Home Journal, she will be the magazine's Gourmet-on-the-Go. . . . **Wayne Pennington**, director of PR for Hanes Corporation, taking on an additional six months' assignment as a special assistant on manpower problems to the mayor of Winston-Salem, N.C.

ARTICLES: Results of **Robert Jay Misch's** recent wine safari to Italy: an article in January House Beautiful, a piece titled "The White Alcohols" in December Signature and "The Death of a Gourmet" in winter Bacchus Journal. . . . Who spends his days lolling on the on the beach at Palm Beach? Not **George L. Hern, Jr.** He had several articles in the 150-page 75th anniversary edition of Palm Beach Daily News, including an interview with the mayor; a piece on "Resorts for the Elite" in January Palm Beach Life, with another, "Art on the French Riviera" coming up in the magazine's February issue.

BOOKS: New book — his 51st? — by **Lowell Thomas** and Lowell Thomas, Jr., on the stands Jan. 17 via Doubleday. Its title, "Famous First Flights that Changed History." Thomas, Sr., appeared on NBC-TV's Today show on Jan. 15 to discuss the new volume. . . . A study made by **Jack Harrison Pollack** for the National Education Association based upon Gesell Institute Research, "The Folly of Overplacement," being reprinted in a book on American Education by Armando Armando in Rome. . . . Harper & Row has done a new printing of "The Great Merchants" by **Tom Mahoney** and Leonard Sloane. It recounts rise of 22 big retailers, including Macy's, Sears Roebuck, A & P, etc.

SPEAKERS: **Elmer Lower**, prexy of ABC news, spoke before the Denver Advertising Club on Jan. 9; is scheduled to address the annual meeting of the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches in NY

SALAZAR:

Attends

Puerto Rico

Inaugural.



on Feb. 6. . . . **Sylvia Schur** to talk about communications in the food and beverage world at the Jan. 21 meeting of NY chapter of Theta Sigma Phi.

HONORS: **Ralph Salazar**, editor of UPI's San Juan desk and an old friend of the new governor of Puerto Rico, Luis A. Ferre, was a guest at latter's inauguration Jan. 2. . . . **Gordon Gilmore**, PR vice-president of TWA, named outstanding PR executive of the year by vote of the readers of the Gallagher Report, a NY advertising and marketing publication. He also received a citation from the Department of State's Assistant Secretary **Dixon Donnelley** for organizing tours of European journalists to the US and for fostering greater understanding of the foreign service. . . . **Grace Naismith** to receive an honorary degree this spring from William Woods College, Fulton, Mo., when she will also deliver the commencement address.

MARRIED: **Nathaniel Greenblatt Lande** to Linda Hope, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hope, on Jan. 11 in Calif. After a reception at the Hope home, the newlyweds left for a honeymoon which includes several weeks yachting in the Grenadines and a trip to South America. Lande, creative projects director of Time, Inc., for the last seven years, is now a producer-director at Universal International Studios in Hollywood, and the Landes will live in Beverly Hills. And you don't see an OPC member in a top hat every day of the week.

CONVALESCING: **Wambly Bald** recuperating from surgery at Roosevelt Hospital.

SEAWORTHY: **Paul Alley** holidaying in Florida reports that Captain **Oliver Gramling** (ex-assistant manager AP) is reading a new craft for sea. Named "The Big Story," the new 60-foot vessel carries the AP logo on her bow. Alley suggested the figure-head of a newsboy, arms extending a paper, to carry out the theme.

OOPS: **Joe Dine** complains his title was misquoted in recent Bulletin items. Should be director of public information, Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

SICK BAY: **Leo Glassman**, editor of The American Examiner, is a patient at St. Luke's Hospital and would be pleased to hear from friends.